

What is claimed is:

1. A pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any direction, comprising:

5 a control unit for changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen.

10 2. A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein said control unit limits a moving direction of said operational object on said display screen according to the contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated.

15 3. A pointing device according to claim 2, wherein said control unit defines the direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as the current direction in which said pointing device can be operated.

20 4. A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein said control unit defines the direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as the current direction in which said pointing device can be operated.

25 5. A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.

30 6. A pointing device according to claim 2, wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.

7. A pointing device according to claim 3, wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.

35 8. A pointing device according to claim 4, wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step

value when said pointing device is operated.

9. A pointing device according to claim 5, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
5 operation of said pointing device takes the maximum  
value.

10. A pointing device according to claim 5, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
10 operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined  
threshold value.

15. A pointing device according to claim 6, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
operation of said pointing device takes the maximum  
value.

20. A pointing device according to claim 6, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined  
threshold value.

25. A pointing device according to claim 7, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
operation of said pointing device takes the maximum  
value.

30. A pointing device according to claim 7, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined  
threshold value.

35. A pointing device according to claim 8, wherein  
said moving amount adjusting means move said operational  
object by the predetermined step value when the amount of  
operation of said pointing device takes the maximum  
value.

16. A pointing device according to claim 8, wherein

said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

5        17. A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 1.

18. A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 2.

10        19. A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 5.

20. A mobile telephone according to claim 17, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

15        21. A mobile telephone according to claim 18, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

22. A mobile telephone according to claim 19, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

20        23. A method for controlling a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction, comprising the controlling step of:

25        changing an operational mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen.

30        24. A method for controlling a pointing device according to claim 23, wherein the pointing device can be operated to move said operational object at any speed, and wherein

              said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.